

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Norfolk, Virginia** – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Toussaint Orfeu Booker, age 33, of Los Angeles, California, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Raymond A. Jackson to 27 months of imprisonment.

Booker was convicted of possessing 15 or more counterfeit or unauthorized access devices (credit cards and credit card account numbers) and uttering a counterfeit obligation in conjunction with his arrest in Suffolk, Virginia, on June 7, 2002. On that date, Booker and his co-defendant, David Brunelli, attempted to pass a counterfeit \$100 bill at a Racetrac service station in Suffolk. Upon determining the note to be counterfeit, the station attendant called the police and Booker and Brunelli were stopped in their car minutes later. After placing both men under arrest, agents from the United States Secret Service were called in to assist. Police found a total of 21 counterfeit Discover cards either on Booker and Brunelli or hidden in their car. All 21 cards were in the same name, but each had different stolen account numbers.

In furtherance of that scheme, Booker flew in to Raleigh, North Carolina, and met with Brunelli and two others. Booker then went to a hotel and picked up the counterfeit Discover cards which had been overnighted to him from an accomplice in California. Thereafter, Booker and Brunelli drove to various retail stores in Richmond where they purchased laptop computers. These computers were then overnighted to California for resale. Booker and Brunelli drove to the Hampton Roads area where they met with their accomplices from Raleigh who had been engaged in the same fraudulent activity. Their plan was to hit stores in the South Hampton Roads area the following day before moving on. Subsequent investigation revealed that Booker and Brunelli had made six similar trips within the prior two years, one of which was to Hampton Roads. On each trip, they purchased laptop computers and destroyed all receipts and counterfeit cards to prevent detection. Therefore, the only fraudulent transaction that could be documented was a purchase of a laptop for \$2,821.47 from a CompUSA store in Newport News. Brunelli also carried a fake identification in the same name as that on the counterfeit cards. According to the investigation, all the trips were made to the eastern United States because western merchants were unwilling to accept a credit card that did not respond to a magnetic tape swipe. Brunelli was sentenced by Judge Jackson to 12 months incarceration on December 16, 2002, for his role in these offenses. The remaining two accomplices were not apprehended.

The investigation was conducted by the Hampton Roads Financial Crimes Task Force and the Suffolk Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Stephen W. Haynie prosecuted the case.